

Environment, Safety & Health E-Mail Newsletter

Life Sciences Directorate

February, 2008

FY 2007 Tier 1 Inspection Results

Tier 1 inspection results were tracked for the fiscal year and presented at last week's EMS/OHSAS Senior Management Review.

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for work and home.
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Listed below are the top five deficiencies found:

Deficiency Category/Type	Total # of Findings	Pct of Total Findings
Chemical Safety (Storage)	56	19.31%
Working Environment (Building/lab structural)	50	17.24%
Electrical Safety	40	13.79%
Chemical Safety (Labeling)	36	12.41%
Fire/Life Safety (Egress issues)	17	5.86%

Some examples of the deficiencies found above:

Chemical Safety (Storage) – Incompatibles stored together, no secondary containment, corrosives stored above eye level.

Working Environment – Excessive equipment (cluttering), missing lights/diffusers. Excessive storage in chemical fume hoods blocking air flow, broken cabinet door latches.

Electrical Safety – Blocked circuit breaker panels and electrical safety switches, frayed electrical cords, ungrounded (2-prong plug) equipment, inappropriate use of extension cords and/or powerstrips.

Chemical Safety (Labeling) – Missing labels, faded and unreadable labels, labels non-descriptive (chemical symbol used only).

Fire/Life Safety – Blocked aisles/doors, emergency lights not functioning, doors not labeled as "NOT AN EXIT", cardboard/paper storage (fire loading).

Safety – "the state of being safe; freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger, or loss."

Of the other 98 listed deficiencies, some other areas to be concerned about include:

Personal Protective Equipment – Hearing protection missing near sonicator stations, age defective latex gloves, blocked eye wash stations.

Biological Hazards – Exposed sharps on benchtops, overfull medical waste containers.

Housekeeping – Clutter, trip hazards, storing too much material on shelves, storage on floor.

If You See Something... Say Something!

Generally regarded as a great catch phrase for security issues, it also works just as well for safety.

*Potential hazards you
may disregard today
may injure someone
else in the future...*

Over the past several years the Life Sciences Directorate has had three separate incidents involving legacy electrical issues. Most stem from wiring incorrectly terminated years ago or outlets degrading over time exposing open contacts.

While working in your normal work areas or traversing the building or basement and happen to notice electrical or other conditions which you feel may already be or possibly pose a hazard in the future, please contact your ESH Coordinator or Building Manager immediately.

Below are examples of conditions found during the investigations of the incidents.

Frayed pendant power cord on circuit breaker box.



String pull light bulb unattached and dangling.



Energy Saving Opportunity for Work and Home

The Department of Energy estimates that using energy saving modes on electronics will save consumers and businesses more than \$1.8 billion in energy costs over the next 5 years and prevent greenhouse gas emissions of 2.7 million vehicles! Please consider using energy saving modes on your computers, monitors and other office and lab equipment that have these features. Every little bit counts—below is a table that shows typical energy usage and cost savings for office equipment..

Typical Power Requirements and Energy Use of Office Equipment

Equipment	Power Requirements (Watts)	Annual Energy Costs-Off at night	Annual Energy costs—on 24 hrs/day
Computer	55	\$9	\$39
Monitor (15")	75	\$12	\$54
Laser Printer	60	\$14	\$44

Source: Office Equipment Energy Savings Calculator, LBL.

Please refer to the link below on how to check Energy Saving Settings on your current Windows Systems: <http://www.bnl.gov/lifesciences/Operations/News-Information/EnergyStar.asp>

The BNL Pollution Prevention (P2) Program

The Pollution Prevention (P2) Council seeks ideas and proposals from all BNL staff that will reduce waste, improve recycling, conserve resources and save money. If you have ideas which would accomplish one of the following, then please contact your P2 Council member (Ann Emrick or Bob Colichio).

- Elimination or reduction of wastes, effluents and emissions at the source
- Conservation of natural resources and reuse of materials
- Recycling, and
- Procurement of environmentally preferable products.

Safety Solutions (S2) Program

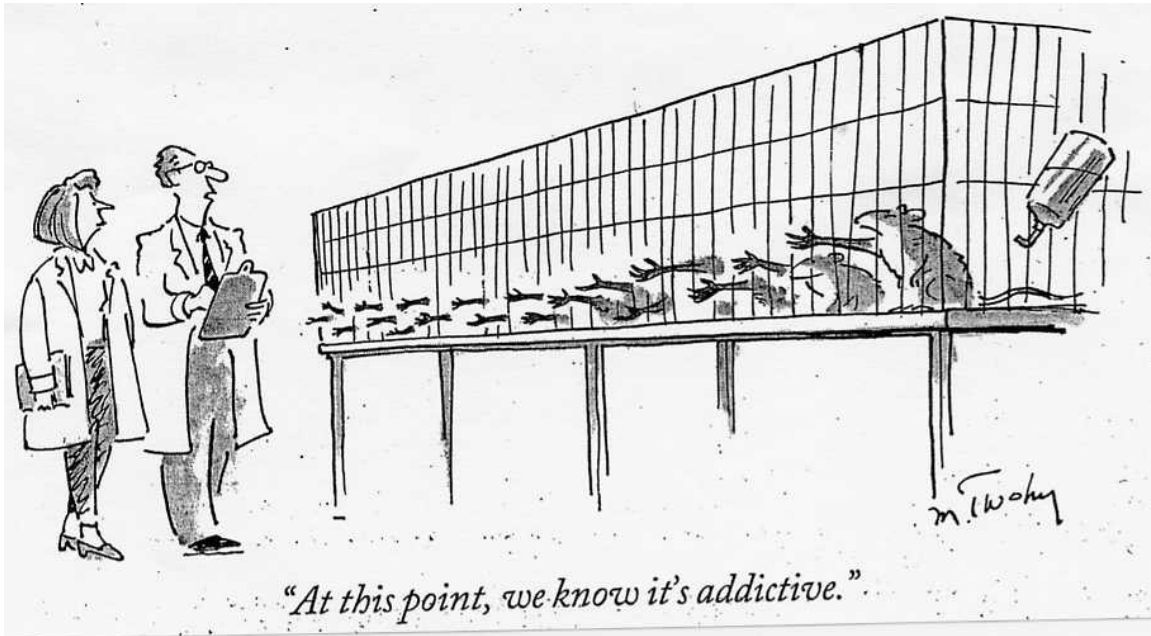
The BNL Safety Solutions (S2) Program is designed to seek out and fund health and safety improvements and corrective actions derived from employee suggestions. It functions in a similar manner to the BNL P2 Pollution Prevention Program.

If you have ideas which would accomplish one of the following, then please contact your P2 Council member (Ann Emrick or Bob Colichio).

- Elimination or reduction of occupational safety & health hazards at the source
- Enhancement of safety and health through equipment and process improvements
- Procurement of OSH favorable products.

** Did you know that the idea for the Main Gate OPEN / CLOSED signs came from Life Sciences?*

And on the Lighter Side...



"No wonder your arm aches. Shackles should be placed at eye level. Man, it's an ergonomic nightmare down here."